

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 114574
ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY: AF:DBBOLEN
APPROVED BY: THE ACTING SECRETARY
AF:AMB SCHAUFLELE
NSC:DR. BRZEZINSKI
S/S:LMACFARLANE

-----191911Z 089997 /42 64

O 182124Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY VIENNA NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 114574

EXDIS VIENNA FOR VICE PRESIDENT'S PARTY

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 1, LINE 2 OMITTED)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SF

SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICA AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS

1. SOUTH AFRICAN AMBASSADOR DONALD B. SOLE PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS TO PRESIDENT MAY 16. IN BRIEF EXCHANGE PRESIDENT COMMENTED ON DISCUSSIONS WITH AMBASSADOR BOTHA BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE TO ASSUME HIS NEW DUTIES AS SOUTH AFRICA'S FOREIGN MINISTER.

2. AMBASSADOR SOLE NOTED HE WAS BEGINNING HIS MISSION AT A TIME WHEN US-SOUTH AFRICAN RELATIONS WERE AT THE "WATERSHED." SOLE STRESSED THROUGHOUT THE CONVERSATION
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HIS DESIRE FOR FRANKNESS AND CANDOR IN THE CONDUCT OF OUR RELATIONS.

3. THE PRESIDENT NOTED THAT THIS WAS A TIME FOR FRANKNESS. VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE HAD AUTHORITY TO SPEAK FOR HIM DURING THE FORTHCOMING MEETING IN VIENNA WITH PRIME MINISTER VORSTER. THE PRESIDENT COMMENTED ON THE

VICE PRESIDENT'S CONSTRUCTIVE ATTITUDE. HE DESCRIBED OUR DESIRE FOR GOOD RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA AND EXPRESSED HOPE FOR COOPERATION, SUPPORT AND TRUST OF SOUTH AFRICA IN DEALING WITH THE PROBLEMS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA. SOLE INDICATED THAT VORSTER SHARED THESE OBJECTIVES.

3. THE PRESIDENT OBSERVED WE HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO TOGETHER IN ORDER TO MAKE RAPID PROGRESS IN RHODESIA, NAMIBIA AND SOUTH AFRICA; HE REITERATED THAT VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE WOULD BE HELPFUL. SOLE COMMENTED ON PROGRESS IN NAMIBIA AND EXPRESSED THE BELIEF THAT SOUTH AFRICA DESERVED RECOGNITION FOR SUCH PROGRESS. PRESIDENT THOUGHT RECOGNITION OF PROMPT PROGRESS WAS IMPORTANT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEM. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Reason:
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